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Final Report for *Aerobiology in Biodefense III* Symposium

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Final Report for *Aerobiology in Biodefense III* Symposium

Introduction

Conceived by the professional staff of the Aerobiology Division at USAMRIID, the *Aerobiology in Biodefense* series of symposia have received wide support within the aerobiology community of government, industry, and academia programs. Third in the series, *Aerobiology in Biodefense III* was held at the Rocky Gap Conference Center in Cumberland, Maryland on 13-16 July 2009.

Body

TRUE Research Foundation, in conjunction with staff members of the Aerobiology Division at USAMRIID, planned and executed the third *Aerobiology in Biodefense* symposium. Each time the conference is held, the participation significantly increases and the program continues to expand. This positive trend continued with *Aerobiology in Biodefense III*. Financial support was secured from the largest list of co-sponsors since the conception of the event. As a new co-sponsor, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency provided funding through the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Participation of key Fort Detrick personnel also included a presentation by COL Judith Robinson, Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison.

A half-day, pre-conference workshop was held as a new element of this year's program. Attendance far exceeded expectations and feedback indicated a strong desire to continue such programs at future events. The multiple guest speaker workshop addressed numerous topics related to theoretical and practical aspects of conducting aerobiology research and aerosol challenges. The workshop served as a primer to kick-off participation and further discussions during the three day program.

The symposium opened with remarks given by Dr. Judy Hewitt, the Chief of Biodefense Research Resources at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The program agenda was divided into seven sections with each section consisting of approximately six to eight oral presentations. Each program section was moderated by a section chairperson. Evening events included poster presentations with ample opportunity to discuss research findings with the authors.

Symposium participants had a unique opportunity to hear from Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, the former Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense. Dr. Johnson-Winegar was the invited speaker at the evening banquet on the third day of the event.

Key Research Accomplishments

This grant award contributed to the successful completion of a five-day scientific symposium entitled *Aerobiology in Biodefense III*, held in July of 2009. Feedback strongly indicated a desire to continue the *Aerobiology in Biodefense* series. Indicators of success included (1) a record number of symposium participants from government, industry, and academia, (2) a record number of oral and poster presentations, (3) standing room only pre-conference workshop, (4) a record number of invited guest speakers, and (5) travel assistance offered to key speakers for the first time in the *Aerobiology in Biodefense* series.

Reportable Outcomes

Aerosol scientists from government, industry, and academia presented their aerobiology-related research in oral presentation and poster presentation formats. The planning committee produced a sixty five page proceedings that included the program agenda, oral presentation abstracts, and poster presentation authors and titles. The document serves as a resource for aerosol scientists by providing an historical record of the symposium, as well as providing names and affiliations to allow professional networking. While less tangible, the co-sponsors of the event (DTRA, NIAID, and NBACC) gained additional visibility to the scientific community as financial supporters of aerobiology-related research.

Conclusion

The *Aerobiology in Biodefense III* Symposium was a very successful event where aerosol professionals from government, industry, and academia meet to exchange ideas, discuss aerobiology science related to biodefense, and to hear the latest in aerosol technology and research from leaders in the field. The symposium was successful, in part, due to the financial support of event co-sponsors, such as DTRA, NIAID, and NBACC. The next event will build on this year's success and promises to continue the tradition of success of the *Aerobiology in Biodefense* series.

References

Aerobiology in Biodefense III, Program and Abstracts, Rocky Gap Conference Center, Cumberland, MD. 13-16 July 2009. 65 pp.

Appendix

Not Applicable

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				<i>Form Approved</i> OMB No. 0704-0188	
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14. ABSTRACT In July 2009 the Aerobiology in Biodefense III Symposium was held at Rocky Gap Conference Center in Cumberland, MD. The Symposium was co-sponsored, in part, by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency through a grant awarded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Other co-sponsors included the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, and the TRUE Research Foundation. The Symposium provided a forum for the exchange of scientific information among government, industry and academia. Oral and poster presentations addressed (1) Facilities, (2) Overcoming Aerosol Challenges, (3) BioAccountability, (4) Modeling, (5) Aerosol Science and Technology, (6) Animal Models, and (7) Countermeasures. COL Judith Robinson, the Commander of the US Army Garrison at Fort Detrick was among many invited guest speakers. One pre-conference workshop on aerosol techniques exceeded expectations. The Symposium was very well received by those in attendance and was considered a great success by the Aerobiology scientific community.					
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